

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 19-23, 26-34, and 37-38 stand rejected. Claims 13-18, 24, 25, 35, and 36 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Dependent Claim 13, which stands objected to, is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include all of the limitations of Claim 1 and intervening Claim 12.

Claims 2, 5, 7-9, and 16 are being amended in the Claim Listing above to depend from now amended Claim 13. Dependent claims 3-4, 6, 10-11, and 14-15 include all of the limitations of now amended Claim 13 by way of their dependency.

Dependent Claim 17, which stands objected to, is being amended into Independent form in the Claim Listing above to include all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Dependent Claim 18, which stands objected to, is being amended into Independent form in the Claim Listing above to include all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Dependent Claim 24, which stands objected to, is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include all of the limitations of Claim 19 and intervening Claim 23.

Dependent Claim 20 is being amended in the Claim Listing above to depend from now amended Claim 24. Dependent Claims 21, 22, and 25 include all of the limitations of now amended Claim 24 by way of their dependency.

Claim 26 is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include similar limitations as in now amended Claim 24.

Dependent Claim 27 depends from Claim 26 and includes all of the limitations of now amended Claim 26 by way of dependency.

Claim 28 is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include similar limitations as in objected Claim 35.

Claim 29 is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include similar limitations as in objected Claim 13.

Dependent Claim 31 is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include similar limitations as in objected Claim 24.

Dependent Claim 33 depends from Claim 31 and includes all of the limitations of Claim 31 by way of dependency.

Claim 35, which stands objected to, is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include all of the limitations of Claim 30 and intervening Claim 34.

Dependent Claim 36 depends from Claim 35 and includes all of the limitations of Claim 35 by way of dependency.

Claim 37 is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include similar limitations as in objected Claim 24.

Dependent Claim 38 depends from Claim 37 and includes all of the limitations of Claim 37 by way of dependency.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20-22, 24-29, 31, 33, and 35-38 are in condition for allowance.

No new matter is being introduced by way of these amendments. Applicants reserve the right to re-file the claims as originally filed in a continuing application. Applicants have amended the claims as described above for the purposes of expediting prosecution.

On page 2 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-12, 19-23, and 28-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,650,641) (hereinafter "Albert") further in view of Jindal et al. (U.S. Patent 6,092,178). In view of the foregoing amendments in the Claim Listing and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.


On page 11 of the present Office Action Claims 26-27 and 37-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albert and further in view of Cunningham et al. (U.S. Patent 6,888,837). In view of the amendments in the Claim Listing above and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims pending after entry of this Amendment, Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20-22, 24-29, 31, 33, and 35-38, are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 

Thomas J. Arria

Registration No. 60,223

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Date: 4/3/07